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INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Yugoslavia/Albania

DATE DISTR. 8 December 1968

SUBJECT Yugoslav Grant of Autonomy to
Kosovo and Metohije

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SUPPLEMENT TO
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1. The Yugoslav Government has inaugurated a new policy of appeasing the longstanding claims to autonomy of the regions of Kosovo and Metohije. The aim of this policy is to prevent the discontent of these regions from being used as the basis of an anti-Tito underground movement by the Cominform, acting through General Enver Hoxha's Albanian Communist government. The major part of the population of the Kosovo and Metohije regions is ethnically Albanian and might be susceptible to propaganda which pictures the Albanians as defenders against Yugoslav injustices.
2. The Hoxha Government is reported to have sent agents provocateurs into these areas with the specific mission of inciting anti-government feeling among the population. In addition, Radio Tirana has for some time broadcast protests against the alleged persecution of the ethnic Albanians in Yugoslavia.
3. A statute has been drawn up for Yugoslavia granting autonomy to these regions, and giving them the right to teach the Albanian language in the schools. In addition, a large, although unspecified, number of Kosovars of all shades of political opinion, who had been interned as anti-Communists, have now been released.

25X1A6a [REDACTED] Comment: The information concerning the grant of autonomy to Kosovo and Metohije has been confirmed by two broadcasts from Radio Belgrade, on 25 and 31 October. Both broadcasts were made in Albanian. 25X1X6

25X1X6 [REDACTED] in addition to satisfying the demands of its own minorities for autonomy, the Yugoslav Government may attempt to enlist the aid of the Kosovar autonomists in the building of a resistance movement inside Albania, directed against the pro-Cominform Hoxha Government.)

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